

CLEMENTS CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

You are invited to the Brown Bag Lecture Series
Wednesday, September 22, 2010
12 noon to 1 p.m. in the Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, SMU

Privileges of Locomotion: Expatriation and American Power in the Southwestern Borderlands

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By the early 1830s, nearly 20,000 Anglos had quit the United States for Mexico. The story of American migration to Coahuila and Texas traditionally figures in narratives of United States expansion. This perspective privileges questions specific to the history of the United States, especially those concerning domestic debates over territorial growth and slavery, and Manifest Destiny as an explanatory framework. This lecture offers an altogether different interpretation of Anglo settlement in Texas during the Mexican period. It views this history in relationship to debates over expatriation as an individual right under international law. A citizen's right to change political allegiance proved both deeply resonant but also highly controversial throughout the Anglo-Hispanic Atlantic world. This talk explores how Mexican authorities in Texas and Anglo settlers, answering to different domestic concerns and drawing upon divergent cultural traditions, unintentionally created a shared legal space at the border defined by assumptions that individuals possessed natural rights to move freely throughout world.

Image: Thomas Gamaliel Bradford, *Map of Texas*, 1835. Courtesy of the DeGolyer Library, SMU.

For more information or if you need special accommodations,
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